

Message Text

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ACTION OFA-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-07 INT-05 DLOS-04

SAL-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15

PRS-01 SP-02 /055 W

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R 020050Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7316

UNCLAS TOKYO 3057

FOR OES/OFA/FA NAKATSU

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, JA

SUBJECT: JAPANESE CATCH ANDEXPORTS OF HALIBUT TO U.S.

REF: STATE 42609

1. FONOFF ASKED EMBASSY TO PASS DEPARTMENT INFORMATION
PARAS 2-4 BELOW, WHICH JFA OBTAINED IN RESPONSE TO NAKATSU REQUEST
CITED REFTEL.

2. JAPANESE EXPORTS OF HALIBUT TO U.S.:

CY	METRIC TONS
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1972	6,261
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1973	4,510
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1974	2,341
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1975	3,113
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JFA NOTES THAT WHILE 1975 EXPORTS EXCEEDED THOSE OF 1974, THEY WERE
BELOW THE LEVELS OF 1972 AND 1973 AND ALSO BELOW THE 1972-1974
AVERAGE OF 4,371 METRIC TONS. JFA THUS BELIEVES PRESS REPORTS OF
"DRASTIC UPSURGE" IN JAPANESE EXPORTS OF HALIBUT TO U.S. TO
BE EXAGGERATED.

3. DOMESTIC AND EXPORT PRICES OF HALIBUT:

A) DOMESTI:

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CY AV. PRICE (YEN/KILO)

1974 501 (EQUALS YEN228 OR \$0.78/LB. AT 1974 AV.
EXCHG RT. \$1.00-YEN292)
1975 592 (EQUALS YEN269 OR \$0.91/LB. AT 1975 AV.
EXCHG RT. \$1.00-YEN297)

B) EXPORT:

DATE PRICE (\$/LB. FOR HALIBUT STEAKS)

JAN. 1975 1.16

JUNE 1975 1.34

SEPT. 1975 1.58

JFA CONCLUDED FROM ABOVE DATA THAT MAIN FACTOR BEHIND 1975'S INCREASED HALIBUT EXPORTS TO U.S. WAS EXPORT PRICES WHICH WERE HIGHER AND RISING MORE RAPIDLY THAN DOMESTIC PRICES. (FQ: IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF QUESTIONS, FONOFF INDICATED THAT JFA REPORT DOES NOT SPECIFY WHETHER EXPORT PRICES ARE WORLDWIDE OR U.S. OR WHETHER HALIBUT STEAK PRICES ARE COMPARABLE WITH THE AVERAGE DOMESTIC PRICE DATA PROVIDED. FONOFF ACKNOWLEDGED ABOVE PRICE DATA DIFFICULT TO COMPARE AND OFFERED TO SEEK FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS POINT IF DEPT. SO REQUESTS.)

4. AREAS OF JAPANESE HALIBUT CATCH:

A) AREAS NEAR JAPAN AND KURILE ISLANDS FISHED BY COASTAL VESSELS: 60 PERCENT

B) PELAGIC FISHERY: 40 PERCENT

INCLUDES AREAS E. AND W. OF KAMCHATKA PENINSULA, SEA OF OKHOTSK, WESTERN PACIFIC AND SOME INCIDENTAL CATCH ASSOCIATED WITH BERING SEA MOTHERSHIPS AND N. PACIFIC TRAWL FISHERY.

JFA DESCRIBES ABOVE PERCENTAGE FIGURES AS GENERAL ESTIMATES, DIFFICULT TO VERIFY BY STATISTICS, BUT NOTES THAT INPFC DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE TO USG CONTAIN HALIBUT CATCH STATISTICS FOR AREA COVERED BY AGREEMENT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FISHING INDUSTRY, HALIBUT, EXPORT DATA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TOKYO03057
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760078-0504
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197603102/aaaadlzi.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OFA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 42609
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2004 by fisherem>; APPROVED <20 DEC 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JAPANESE CATCH ANDEXPORTS OF HALIBUT TO U.S.
TAGS: EFIS, JA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006